



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Winter Travel Safety and Awareness



Travel - Before the Trip:

- Winterize your car with fresh antifreeze, oil, a good battery, and maintain a properly operating exhaust system.
- Avoid driving until the roads are safe and passable. A stranded vehicle can hamper snow removal.
- Do a thorough pre-trip inspection of your vehicle, paying special attention to your tires, brakes, windshield wipers and windshield wiper fluid.
- Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes to your destination.

Equip Your Vehicle With:

- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A first-aid kit, including necessary medications
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags
- Extra mittens or gloves, socks, a warm cap and rain gear
- A windshield scraper and small broom in your car for ice and snow removal
- A small sack of sand to use for traction under your wheels
- A small shovel, small tools, and booster cables
- A brightly colored cloth to use as a flag
- Nonperishable foods and bottled water

During the Trip:

- Use common sense, and adjust your speed and following distance to suit driving conditions
- Give snowplows plenty of room, and don't pass them
- Always wear your seat belt
- Remember that driving is most dangerous when temperatures are near 32 degrees
- Watch for other vehicles having problems with road conditions
- Keep mirrors, windows and lights clean; keep your lights on
- Don't pass other vehicles on or near bridges
- Keep your fuel tank at least half full
- If you don't feel comfortable driving, pull off of the highway and park at the first safe place

If You're Trapped in Your Car:

- Stay in the vehicle. It's easy to become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow
- Display a trouble sign—hang a brightly colored cloth on the antenna
- Run the engine for about 10 minutes each hour—run the heater and turn on the dome light only when the vehicle is running
- Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a window slightly for ventilation
- Clap hands and move your arms and legs occasionally—don't stay in one position for too long
- If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping